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Certified Aruban artisans conduct inaugural show at Fort Zoutman



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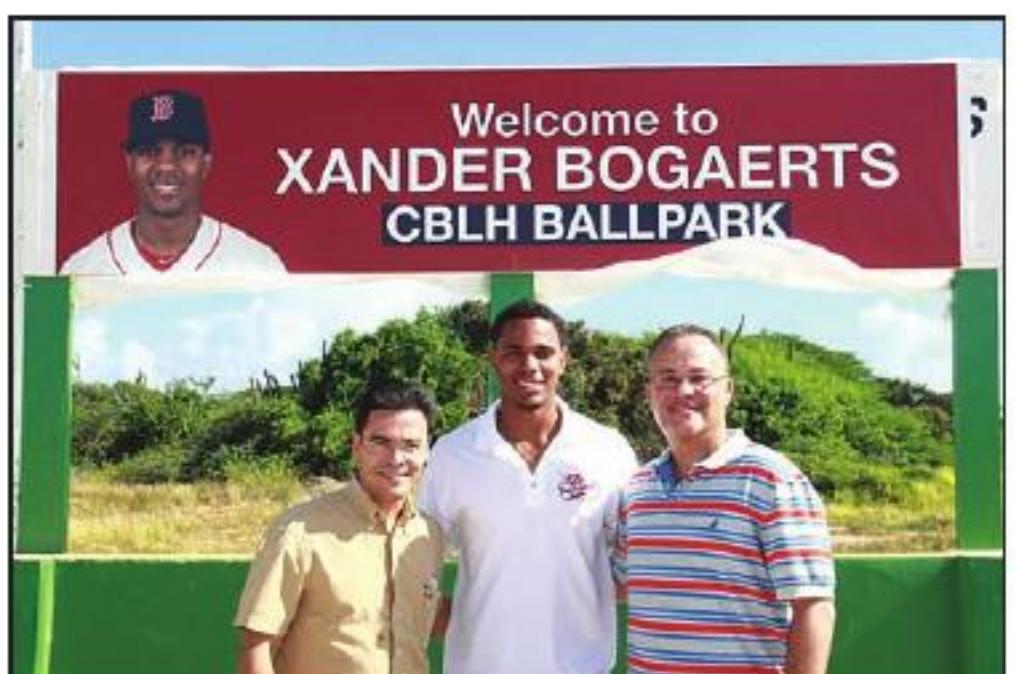
ORANJESTAD -- The holiday season is upon us, and Aruban artisans united under the banner of Foundation A.® U.B. A. (Artisans Recognized & United by Aruba) to show their wares during a festive evening at Fort Zoutman on Saturday, December 7, titled "Aruba's Crafty Hands."

Scores of handcrafts of every stripe were showcased in the fort's courtyard, proving a wealth of choices of decorations for the home or unique gifts. Some of the art was seasonal, such as tree ornaments, but most were suitable for any occasion.

The diversity of work ranged from mosaics, carved and painted local woods and driftwood in particular, jewelry, lamps, knick-knacks, and recycled inner tubes resulting in remarkably chic fashion accessories.

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Dedication of the Xander Bogaerts Stadium inaugurates the "Dare to Dream" Foundation events



Xander Bogaerts flanked by, at left Minister Schwengle and, at right, Minister de Meza. (see story on page 4)

At least 53 world leaders to attend Mandela funeral

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) - Fifty-three heads of state and government have so far confirmed attendance at upcoming memorial events for peace icon Nelson Mandela, South African Foreign Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane said yesterday.

The dignitaries will include US President Barack Obama, along with three former American presidents, Brazilian leader Dilma Rousseff, French President Francois Hollande and British Prime Minister David Cameron.

There has been "unprecedented interest" to attend the statesman's funeral week after he died Thursday night, Nkoana-Mashabane said.

Many leaders will attend a memorial service Tuesday at

the Soccer City stadium, where Mandela made his last major public appearance during the 2010 football World Cup.

A smaller group would travel to the Nobel peace laureate's rural childhood village Qunu for his funeral service and burial next Sunday.

Scores of dignitaries are also expected to attend, including UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, Kofi Annan, Martti Ahtisaari, Lakhdar Brahimi, Mary Robinson. Talk show queen Oprah Winfrey and singer-activist Bono, as well as Richard Branson and Peter Gabriel are expected to be among the celebrity mourners.

Palestinian leader Mahmud Abbas and Britain's Prince Charles, representing Queen Elizabeth II, will also attend.

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AHATA and B&P/Interface facilitates

Practical Labor Law Course

ORANJESTAD -- Just recently, AHATA and B&P/ Interface Aruba Training & Consultancy joined together to organize a special course on Labor Law for all members of the AHATA.

The course was especially

designed to explain our labor laws and how they function in practice. Special attention was given to the 2013 labor decree which was introduced in April 2013. The course had duration of 18 hours divided into three whole days.

A group of 23 persons who participated in the special course received their certificate of "Labor Law in Practice on Aruba."

Continued on page 4

Certified Aruban artisans...

Continued from page 1



Artwork carved from Kwihi trees



Carina Molina, who produces the latter for Upcycled Designs," is a co-founder of Foundation A. @. U.B. A.

All work on display was "100% inspired and created on Aruba," and actually come tagged with an official label, certifying them as such. There work is endorsed by Aruba's Department of Culture and the Aruba Tourism Authority.

This first show was, unfortunately, their last group presentation for the year, but for anyone interested, they individual artisans can be contacted through the foundation by calling 732-2191 or e-mailing foundationaruba@gmail.com. Art lovers can also keep up with their progress and new shows by visiting their Facebook page, Foundationaruba.

We have moved!

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Ask for the Soup of the Day

Italiestraat # 50 (Orange Plaza) Closed on Mondays

Dutch Students present their Sustainable Building study of Rancho area



University of Rotterdam students conducting the study.



Students explain their recommendations for the Lime Oven

ORANJESTAD-- Government architects Raffy Kock and Glen Goddijn had been host to 16 students of the University of Rotterdam under the tutelage of Associate Professor Sustainable Building Technology, Arjan Karsenberg for two weeks beginning on November 25. The group was on island for the third Sustainable Building study on Aruba, with Professor Karsenberg has installed as a part of the annual curriculum of the course. the Archeology Museum Aruba (NAMA) was used as head-

quarters while the students closely studied this historic area of Oranjestad during the project, dubbed "Minor Rancho." Supporting the study was the Foundation Rancho and Aruba's Monument Foundation.

The western section of Aruba's capital, Rancho, was originally an independent settlement. The expansion of urban sprawl eventually resulted in it being enfranchised within Oranjestad's borders. The barrio is quite densely populated, and many of the homes occupied are landmark structures existing since the earliest colonial times. The area was noted for its salt flats and harbor, where fisherman brought in the catch and sold fish for Aruban kitchens and export.

In the presence of Aruba's Minister of Social Affairs, Youth Policy and Labor, Paul Croes, and other community leaders, the class presented their findings and recommendations for improving the area in the auditorium of NAMA on Friday afternoon, December 6.

Continued on page 5

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Aruba Minister Plenipotentiary addresses important OCTA Forum

ORANJESTAD -- Recently, Minister Plenipotentiary for Aruba in Holland, Alfonso Boekhoudt, had the opportunity to address the OCTA ('Overseas Countries & Territories Association) of the European Union, in Belgium. The Minister addressed a group of ministers and representatives of different countries, zones and island members. After confirming that Aruba believes in the relationship with the European Union, Boekhoudt went on to explain what Aruba is doing to promote and become an example for our vision.

Boekhoudt gave as example our vision on energy. The energy packet of the European Union for 2020 is asking for a reduction of 20% gas emission and to increase the consumption of renewable energy to 20%. Even though Aruba is not legally committed to this standard, we accept the challenge and are intent on going even further to 100% renewable energy production. To achieve this we are working not only on the transition to renewable energy but also to decrease the dependency of fossil fuel and its expenditure.

Boekhoudt's discourse was

very eloquent and covered most of the important issues and challenges Aruba is currently dealing with as we embark on new initiatives for economic growth and development. He invited all the members to make use of new instruments of OAD to facilitate and adopt the European standards wherever possible. This will help get the attention

of investors when offering reliable and attractive business opportunities.

He ended his discourse placing emphasis on the opportunities Aruba has to offer as a hub for European countries to enter the Latin American market.

"Let's maximize our efforts to put our resources to work," he finished saying.

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Dedication of the Xander Bogaerts Stadium inaugurates the "Dare to Dream" Foundation events



Xander with Carlos Pagan, Director
 Little League Latin America Division



Ministers present ball and Bat to Vale Peterson and Ken Lukas



Marlins LL team from Noord



Long time visitors Susan and Mike
 Benevania meet their hero

SAN NICOLAS -- Yesterday morning, island dignitaries gathered at the Centro di Bario Lago Heights for the inauguration of the fully renovated neighborhood ballpark as "Xander Bogaerts Ballpark." Aruba's

native son, Major League player Xander Bogaerts, who won his first World Series ring only a few months after being called up from the minors by the Boston Red Sox, was present for the official unveiling.

Assisting Xander in uncovering the sign was Aruba's Minister of Public Health, Elderly Care and Sport, Dr. Alex Schwengle and Minister of Economic Affairs, Communications, Energy and Environment, Mike de Meza.

Together they welcomed Director of Little League Latin America, Carlos Pagan, who was on island providing a training program for local Little League volunteers.

Prior to the official unveiling, a baseball and bat were presented by the two ministers to Ken Lukas, President of the Lago Heights Neighborhood Association, and Valentino Peterson, manager of the ballfield, and acknowledged by all as a driving force behind its renovation.

Continued on page 5



White Sharks LL team from San Nicolas

AHATA and B&P/Interface facilitates ...

Continued from page 2

The good knowledge of our labor laws is very important for business owners or those who work in the Human resources Department or are company managers. It is very important to know what to do in case of, among others, termination of employment

The facilitator of the course is one of our local experts on labor law, Enrique (Tito) de Cuba. The participants of the course who received a certificate were: Maria Esguerra, Eugenille Perez Angelique Croes, Adelita Erasmus, Keisha Williams, Zuleyma Frigeiro,



Maas van Drie, Renny Lacle, Raul Piar, Bernadetta Christiaans, Randolph Ponson, Gwendolyn de Cuba-Ras, Mo Bagheri, Jennifer Kock, Sheelah v/d Poel Oduber, Marlin Ras, Moraima Giel, Anoushka de Cuba, Salome Folkes, Sharenda Clarinda, Undina Williamson, Virginia Silva and Desiree Nicolaas.

Holiday Menu

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Appetizer (Choose one)

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Drinks Menu (Choose one)

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STEAK LOVERS
 Beef Tenderloin with mushroom sauce,
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ALBERTO'S FRESH CATCH
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Xander Bogaerts Stadium

Continued from page 5

The official re-naming of the field opened a festive day of events organized by Xander Bogaerts' Dare to Dream Foundation and sponsored by SETAR, Aruba's national telecommunications company, and Balashi Brewery, bottlers and distributors of Coca Cola on Aruba.

Two weeks ago, Xander and his mother, Sandra Brown, announced the founding of Dare to Dream, to assist island youngsters without the means with the funding for baseball uniforms and transportation to Little League games and practice. They also hope to provide funds for other worthy needs for youth, outside of baseball, such as additional scholastic tutoring for those who cannot afford it.

Both ministers commended Xander on his international success, and described him as an example for all island children of taking one's talent to the pinnacle of the world arena through dedication and tenacity. Mr. Pagan, who had followed his career closely, confided he believes Xander will likely be one of the Major League's top players within a few years, barring any injury. "He has everything it takes to be a star athlete in the Major League," he told THE MORNING NEWS. "He is a wonderful role-model for all Aruba's young, aspiring ballplayers."

The full day of activities and the opportunity for island children to interact with Xander, began with the inaugural game of the ABBA Little League Playoffs between the Marlins team of Noord, against the White Sharks of San Nicolas. The winners will eventually compete for the Caribbean Little League Championship title, and if winning it, they will go on to the Little League World Series.

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Dutch Students present their Sustainable Building study ...

Continued from page 3

During their stay, the students were housed at Flor di Oriente, on the eastern border of the Rancho area, so as to allow them to be fully immersed in this barrio's unique culture and traditions. Mr. Goddijn expressed at the start of the program that "It is very healthy for architectural students to work within the context of foreign cultures and mindsets. It inspires them to innovative thinking,

while we will also benefit from their knowledge of the latest technologies and techniques." Raffy Kock confirmed that some of their suggestions were already in the planning, but the class still presented a number of fresh ideas.

The Rancho was particularly challenging, as the students had to work within the parameters of preserving landmarks and historical context of the area, while in-

creasing the efficiency of the infrastructure. In their presentation, they pointed out that one of the most noticeable aspects for increasing tourism and flow to the area was improving the infrastructure of the north-south side streets, which are very narrow and in a dilapidated state. They remarked the principal thoroughfares, running east to west and reverse, are in good shape, but

traffic would flow much more smoothly with the renovation of the smaller streets and a more practical planning of their traffic flow. After a visual presentation, stakeholders were taken on a tour through the area. Particular landmark structures, consisting of homes and alleyways which still embody the architecture and ambiance of colonial times, were earmarked for renovation. The

historic lime oven, the only one on the island and one of Aruba's oldest structures, was considered a priority.

City planners and government architects thanked the students for the input. In turn, the students considered it an enlightening experience. Their recommendations will be incorporated into the government's beautification plans for Oranjestad.

Colombian rebels declare 30-day unilateral ceasefire



HAVANA (AFP) -- Commanders of the FARC-EP leftist guerrillas Jesus Santrich (L), Ivan Marquez (R) and Pablo Catatumbo (C) read a statement at Convention Palace in Havana, Cuba, during the peace talks with the Colombian government, on December 8, 2013. The FARC announced a 30-day unilateral ceasefire from December 15. The rebels also said they hoped the government of President Juan Manuel Santos would "respond to this gesture by suspending operations." The announcement came at the end of the latest round of peace talks in Havana aimed at ending unrest that has left hundreds of thousands of dead and displaced more than 4.5 million people. It also followed a deadly bombing in the town of Inza Saturday that was immediately blamed on the Sixth Unit of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia.

Spain rescues 90 migrants trying to sail to Europe

MADRID (AFP) - Spanish rescue services rescued 90 African migrants over the weekend who were making a desperate attempt to reach Europe in makeshift boats, according to officials.

Yesterday rescuers and police said 44 migrants were intercepted in Spanish waters, while another 46 were rescued on Saturday, a local government official said.

In Murcia, south eastern Spain, coastguards spotted two boats 10 nautical miles from the coast and sent out an alert at 2:20am, a spokesman for the local municipality said.

At 4:00am the Red Cross came to the aid of "eight Algerian men" near the resort of Torrevieja further north, two of whom were suffering from hypothermia, the NGO said in a statement.

A fourth boat carrying 19 North Africans was intercepted near the Canary Islands on Saturday night, a spokesman for the Civil Guard said.

Another four boats had been rescued on Saturday, carrying a total of 46 people, including three women, government and maritime officials said.



JOHANNESBURG -- AFP photo shows a tribute to Nelson Mandela pictured on a wall of Johannesburg, South Africa.

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Jubilation and souvenir-hunting as Lenin felled in Kiev

KIEV (AFP) - The almost seven-decade life of Russian revolution leader Vladimir Lenin's statue in Kiev ended in spectacular fashion, with a half backwards somersault and dive head-first into the ground.

As hundreds of thousands protested against the government of Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych and its rejection of a pact with the European Union, some 30 people in masks surrounded the statue in central Kiev.

They brandished the blue flags of the nationalist Svoboda (Freedom) group indicating they were likely linked to the party, two of whose deputies were also present.

A man placed a ladder against the massive plinth of the monument and climbed to the top of the statue itself. He placed a noose round the Lenin's neck and attached cables to the rope.

With the chords in place, the protesters then sought to pull the 3.4 meter (11 feet) high monument down but the massive stone monument for some 10 minutes refused to shift.

"Hang the Commie!" screamed the protesters.

Finally it budged. The statue of the Soviet Union's founder fell backwards from its pedestal as if in slow motion, plunged head first into the ground and was decapitated on impact.

Lenin is a figure of hate for Ukrainian nationalists, who accuse him of blocking the dream of an independent Ukraine and repressing Ukrainian language and culture.

The statue had first been erected in December 1946 just after World War II ended.

"What an unpleasant suicide!" later quipped Oleg Tyagnybok, the leader of Svoboda, in a statement released by his party.

Ukrainian Communists were predictably furious. "This is beyond the realms of civilised and cultured behaviour," fumed Communist Party MP Oksana Kaletnyk.

In scenes reminiscent of the iconic images of the fall of the Berlin Wall, protesters immediately started using axes to hack away at the statue and take pieces home as a historic souvenir.

The protesters installed on the empty plinth the Ukrainian state flag and the red and black banner of the wartime anti-Communist Ukrainian Insurgent Army, which carried out guerrilla attacks on the Red Army in western Ukraine in World War II and even into the early 1950s.

Cries of "Thank God" and "Finally" resounded from some 1,500 people at the scene.



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Dutch premier's Israel trip hit by Gaza row

JERUSALEM (AFP) - A visit to Israel by Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte Sunday was marred by a dispute over a new security scanner on the Gaza border, an Israeli official said.

Rutte was to have inaugurated the scanner on the frontier with the Palestinian Islamist-ruled enclave, but the ceremony was put off because of the row.

"Installation of the Dutch scanner, which would have been used to verify the contents of containers from Gaza destined for export, was postponed after the Netherlands made unexpected demands," the official told AFP, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"Technically, there is no problem about the scanner at the Kerem Shalom crossing through which goods originating in Gaza pass," the official said.

"But the Dutch suddenly im-

posed political conditions, notably on the percentage of merchandise destined for the West Bank or abroad.

"These are political issues that need to be resolved at the highest level, which will delay the start-up of the scanner."

The focus of the dispute is exports from Gaza to the West Bank, which is controlled by the Palestinian Authority under president Mahmud Abbas.

Israel's defence ministry wants to isolate the two Palestinian regions, while Dutch officials had hoped the scanner might boost commerce between them, the media reports said.

After one of its soldiers, Gilad Shalit, was captured in 2006 by Gaza-based militants, Israel imposed a blockade on the Palestinian enclave.

It reinforced this in 2007 after Hamas ousted secular Fatah forces loyal to Abbas.

The official told AFP.

Iran nuclear talks Today in Vienna

TEHRAN (AFP) - Experts from Iran and the six major powers overseeing a landmark interim nuclear agreement will meet today in Vienna to discuss its implementation with UN inspectors, an Iranian negotiator said.

Representatives from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which is supervising the implementation of the agreement, will also be present.

In November, Iran and the so-called P5+1 -- the United States, Britain, France, China and Russia plus Germany -- reached a historic agreement in which Tehran is to curb its controversial nuclear activities in exchange for limited sanctions relief.

The accord was aimed at buying time for a comprehensive agreement to reassure Western nations that Iran's nuclear programme is not aimed at developing atomic weapons. Tehran has always insisted its programme is entirely peaceful.

The IAEA does not have a permanent presence in Iran but regularly inspects several sensitive nuclear sites.

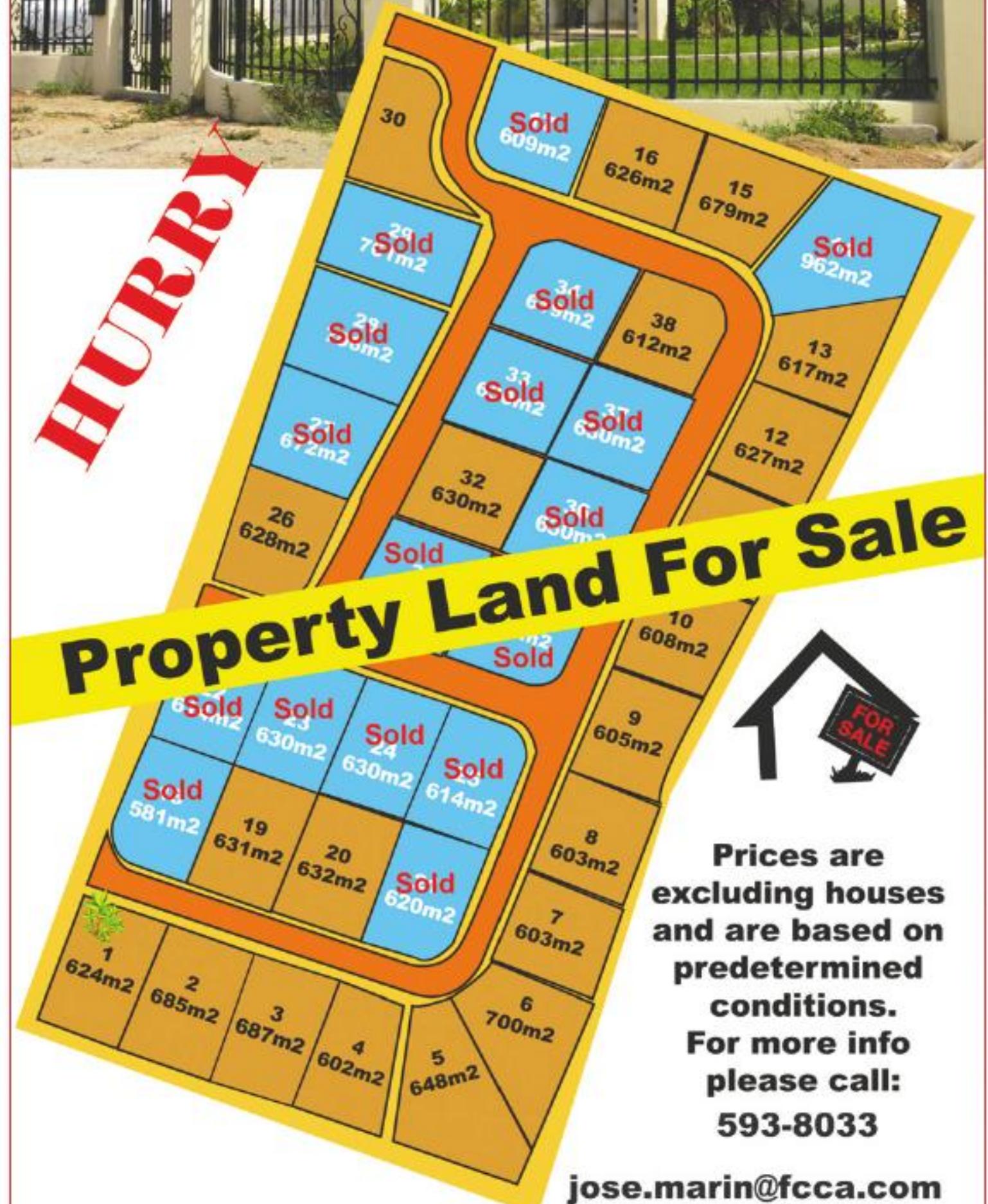
Under the six-month interim deal, Iran agreed to limit its uranium enrichment to the five percent level required for civilian power plants.

In return, the P5+1 agreed to some \$7 billion of temporary and reversible sanctions relief, while leaving the bulk of sanctions -- including crippling limits on Iran's oil and banking sector -- in place.

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Nearly 400 killed in last three days in Bangui: France

PARIS (AFP) - French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius said Sunday that nearly 400 people were killed in the last three days in violence in the Central African Republic capital Bangui, but that calm had returned. French troops poured into the impoverished landlocked country on Saturday after President Francois Hollande announced he was boosting a UN-mandated French force to 1,600 soldiers. "There are a certain number of operations under way throughout the country, and operations to disarm Seleka will begin," Fabius said, referring to the mostly Muslim rebel fighters who were behind a coup in March. "Our role is loud and clear, and it is first of all a security role. The order has been given to disarm and confine to quarters, we are doing this with the Africans" from the 2,500-strong MISCA force, Fabius said.

Uruguay to make big splash by legalizing marijuana

MONTEVIDEO (AFP) - Uruguay will write a piece of history this week when the small South American nation becomes the first country in the world to legalize marijuana, launching a social experiment as part of a broad strategy to combat drug trafficking.

The green light will come Tuesday with a vote in the Senate. The lower chamber of Congress already passed the bill in August, and passage in the upper house is assured because the ruling leftist Broad Front coalition controls both.

The plan was unveiled a year and a half ago by President Jose Mujica along with other measures designed to halt crime and violence associ-

ated with the drug trade.

The law will give the government control and regulatory power over imports, growing, harvesting, distribution and sales of pot and its derivatives.

After signing up, people 18 and older will be able to grow up to six marijuana plants, obtain the drug in marijuana smoking clubs and buy up to 40 grams a month in pharmacies.

The change adds to other big ones in the country: legalization of abortion and gay marriage.

But not everyone is thrilled by the idea of legalizing marijuana. A poll carried out in September found 61 percent of those surveyed do not approve.

Neighbors Brazil and Ar-

gentina have expressed surprise, and questions have been raised over what the effect would be if such a law were passed in countries torn and bloodied by drug trafficking, such as Colombia and Mexico. Uruguay frames the initiative as part of the stance of an international drug commission whose members include former presidents Cesar Gaviria of Colombia and Ernesto Zedillo of Mexico and which has concluded that the war on drugs has failed.

As the law stands now in Uruguay, consuming drugs is not illegal but selling them is. Pot is the most common of illegal drugs here and consumption of it has doubled in the past 10 years.

Authorities say there are some 128,000 marijuana smokers in this country, but pot consumer groups put the figure higher, at 200,000.

The government hopes to lure consumers with pot that is cheaper and of better quality than what is sold on the streets.

Uruguayan doctors are divided. Some say the change will lower consumption of more dangerous drugs, while others argue that it ignores the pernicious effects of smoking pot.

Opposition lawmakers say there is the risk that consumption will rise.

Not all pot smokers are convinced, either. Some do not like the idea of having to sign up to get pot.

Specialists are not of one mind, either.

"I think Uruguay can push the international discourse, the international scientific and policy discourse, on how to develop more reasonable, more effective ways of drug control," said Hans-Joerg Albrecht, director at the Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Criminal Law.

He said the biggest risks are a rise in consumption and health problems, but warned it is hard to determine cause and effect in these cases.

But Arjan Roskam, head of Holland's Green House, the world's biggest marijuana seed bank, said that if the regulation is done "in a very socialist way it will not work."

Roskam, one of the experts consulted by the government of Uruguay, told AFP that if everything depends on the state and sales to tourists are not allowed, there will still be street dealing and the black market problem will not be solved.

"So you do something very good, you regulate cannabis but you do not solve the dealing in the streets," he said.

Dementia Fast Becoming a Global Epidemic

The number of people living with dementia worldwide is exploding, particularly in poor nations, a new report shows.

In data to be presented next week at the first G8 Dementia Summit in London, Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI) found that an estimated 44 million people now suffer from the condition, a 17 percent rise since 2009.

Is Alzheimer's Disease Genetic?

Dementia, an umbrella term that includes Alzheimer's disease and other less common disorders, destroys a person's mind and often drains his or her life savings. Care can become extremely expensive as a patient deteriorates, and experts are worried about how this will impact people in countries with already limited resources.

The report shows that the epidemic will spread rapidly in the coming years as people worldwide live longer because dementia becomes increasingly common with age.

By 2030, ADI predicts that 76 million people around the world will live with the incurable illness, with the number ballooning to 135 million by 2050. By that time, 71 percent of those patients will reside in low- and middle-income countries.

There is no cure for dementia, though some medications help slow the progression of the disease if started early. New drugs are in the pipeline, however, and a researcher in the U.K. has grabbed headlines by hailing a "breakthrough" in the next five years.

The ADI report highlights dementia as a serious global problem at a time when much work must still be done to combat it.

Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

--Management of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, reports that sales have been very good and encouraging as the global economy recovers and people looking to purchase vacation homes have found that Gold Coast is an outstanding investment value. Director of Sales, Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners in reality do not spend a great amount of time personally to use the villas or town homes they purchase, but are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their "home away from home" in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community where the value of properties has only increased over time. It is only minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway; we are very pleased by the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy operate Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project and the scope of actual and planned facilities and amenities. We have spoken to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."



Input from frequent vacationers who have dreamed of their own home in Aruba contributed to the realization of Gold Coast Aruba which when complete will be a community of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional community pool areas. The Clubhouse is about to start construction and will offer to the community homeowners and visitors 2 tennis courts, full service spa and fitness center as well as a stunning pool area and is expected to be complete by early 2013. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the on site management's rental services program. There is always a great demand for Aruba and facilities such as those at Gold Coast, make it easy for some owners to see a valuable return on their investment.

The design of the residences and public areas is open, airy and spacious, taking full advantage of the island environment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property, not the least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast management have inaugurated a number of

in-house services and have recently become affiliated Interval International, the world's largest network of vacation ownership properties which

provides an unlimited international pool of investors to tap for ownership and rental prospects. Property exchange for a vacation in another desti-

nation is also available through the Interval International affiliation. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, child care, catering services, car rental through its partnership with AVIS car rental are also available as well as pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can also be arranged through their property management department. Personnel are also available to assist in arranging restaurant reservations and island activities.

Visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.

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Holiday WEEKLY HAPPENINGS

MONDAY

CULTURAL NIGHT
Cultural Dance Show by a local dance group on main stage at 8pm

THURSDAY

SPECTACULAR FANTASY NIGHT
An acrobatic dance show on main stage at 8pm

FRIDAY

CARIBBEAN PAN NIGHT
Steel pan Music Live on main stage at 8 pm

SATURDAY

TRADITIONAL GAITAS
Gaitas Show live on stage from 7pm - 9pm

SUNDAY

LOCAL ARTIST
Performance by Local Singer Edjean Semeleer

NIGHTLY

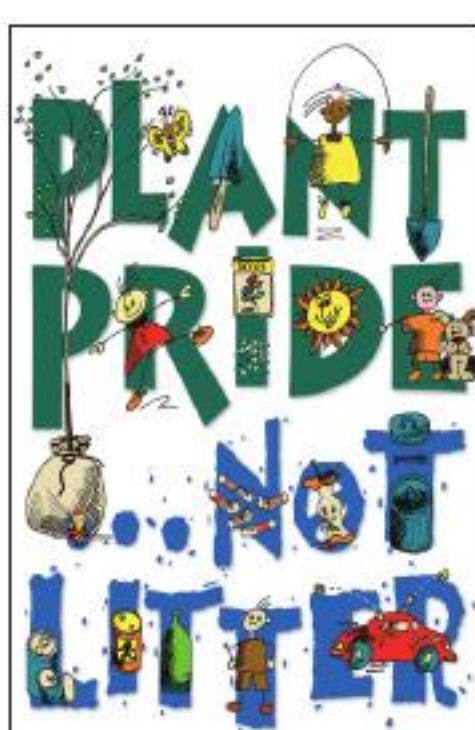
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Dyslexia may be due to faulty brain wiring: study

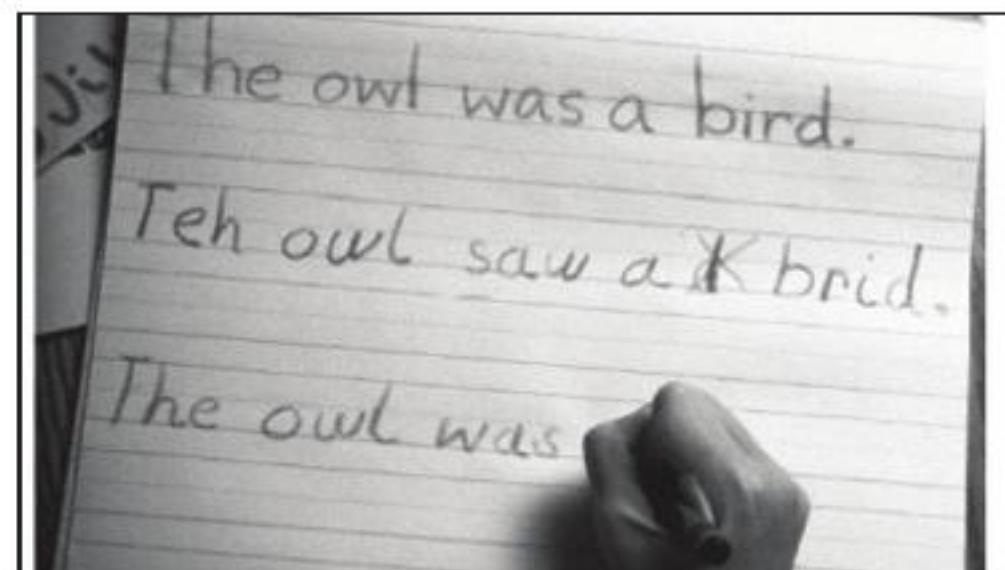
WASHINGTON (AFP) - A roadblock in the brain makes reading hard for people with dyslexia, a new study suggested Thursday, contradicting long-held opinion.

The findings in the US journal *Science* add to an ongoing debate over whether the inherited neurological disorder is caused by faulty brain wiring or the brain's inability to understand the interaction of sounds and symbols that form language.

Dyslexia is a learning disability that affects about 10 percent of the population and occurs among people of all economic and ethnic backgrounds.

The findings were based on brain scans of 23 people with dyslexia and 22 without, showing dyslexics understand the sound units fine but lack the brain connections to process them.

"Quite to our surprise, and probably to the surprise of the broader dyslexia field, we found that phonetic representations are perfectly intact in adults with dyslexia," said researcher Bart Boets, a professor of psychiatry at the University of Leuven in Belgium.



Boets said his team's research counters the predominantly held opinion that somehow people with dyslexia have an inferior ability to recognize the distinct sounds of language.

Instead, they found impaired connections between the right and left auditory regions, where phonetic representations are processed, and Broca's region, where higher level phonological processing takes place.

"Our findings indicate that the speech sound representations themselves are intact, but a dysfunctional connection between frontal and temporal language areas impedes efficient access to the representations," said Boets.

Study subjects listened to a sequence of four partial words,

followed by another sequence in which a consonant or vowel had been switched, such as ba-ba-ba, da-da-da-da.

Then they were asked to identify what had changed.

The team used advanced functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) techniques to measure the unique fingerprint of each sound in the brain, and found the quality of impressions was the same in normal readers and dyslexic people.

In other words, their brains were identifying the sounds and their changes just like normal readers. However, the dyslexic people took 50 percent longer to make their responses, according to *Science*.

Researcher Hans Op de Beeck likened the experiment to having his daughter call from the landline telephone at their house to say she was home from school. That, he could verify, but what was she doing at home? Was she doing her homework or playing a game? He could not know for sure.

With this experiment, researchers were able to see that "the regions containing phonetic representations in adult dyslexic readers are doing their homework, that's for sure."

Boets said he hopes the research could lead to better ways of improving the brain circuitry, perhaps through non-invasive brain stimulation techniques.

However, the findings were questioned by neuroscientist Michael Merzenich at the University of California, San Francisco.

Decades of "very extensive and compelling" evidence show that people with dyslexia process phonetic representations with lower fidelity than normal, he was quoted as telling *Science*.

"You can't just ignore this literature," he said.

How To Stay Healthy

- ✓ Exercise Frequently
- ✓ Eat Healthy Foods.
- ✓ Drink Plenty of Water.

China bans shark fin soup from official receptions

BEIJING (AFP) - China announced a ban on the serving of shark fin and bird's nest soup at official banquets Sunday, as part of a sweeping government crackdown on corruption and excessive spending.

Shark fin has effectively been off the menu at official dining tables since 2012 when Beijing pledged to bar the popular yet controversial delicacy as part of its anti-extravagance campaign.

Demand for shark fin has plummeted after many high-end hotels and restaurants stopped serving the dish, along with other expensive delicacies favoured by Communist Party officials such as abalone and bird's nest soup.

An order from the Communist Party Central Committee and the State Council "explicitly ruled out dishes containing shark fins, bird nests and wild animal products in official reception dinners," the official Xinhua news agency reported Sunday.

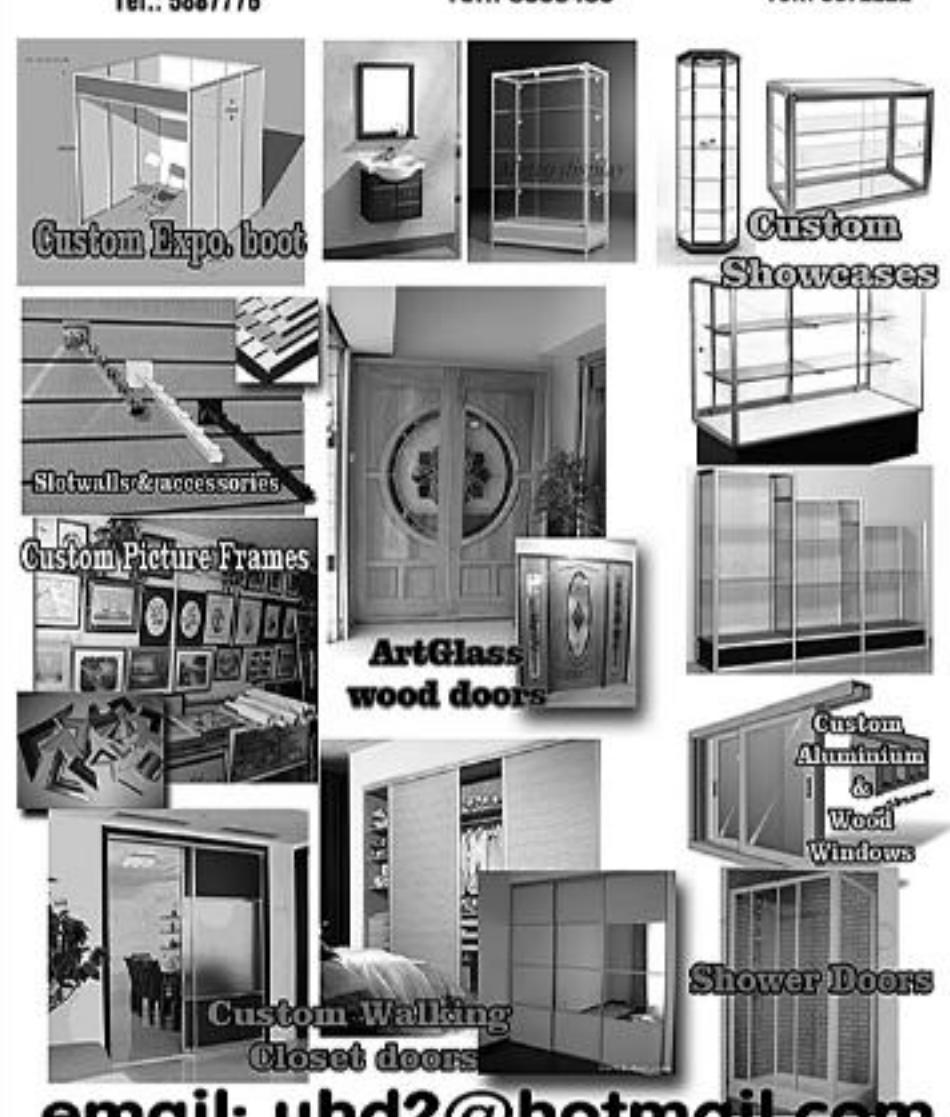
The detailed document also bars expensive liquors and cigarettes from being offered at local authority receptions, as it aims to "regulate" spending on receptions given by local authorities for visiting party or government officials, Xinhua said.

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Aruba Central Bank: Money supply went down

ORANJESTAD -- During the month of September 2013, money supply dropped by Afl. 127.7 million to Afl. 3,291.0 million, resulting from a decrease of Afl. 264.3 million in net foreign assets (excluding revaluation differences of gold and foreign exchange holdings), which was partially offset by an Afl. 136.6 million rise in net domestic assets.

The fall in net foreign assets was caused mainly by payments on matured government bonds amounting to Afl. 119.3 million, that were issued on the international market and net transfers to foreign accounts of resident companies. Additionally, payments for the import of goods and services surpassed gross tourism receipts during the month under review. The rise in the domestic component of the money supply was attributed to an Afl. 155.2 million expansion in domestic credit, which was in part offset by an Afl 18.6 million decrease in non-credit related balance sheet items. Domestic credit increased because the Afl. 147.5 million net claim of the public sector on the banking sector turned into an Afl. 4.5 million net liability of the public sector to the banking sector, stemming from

a decrease in the government's deposits of Afl. 150.7 million. In addition, the claims on the private sector grew by Afl. 3.2 million, due to increases in housing mortgages and consumer credit of, respectively, Afl. 5.4 million (+0.6 percent) and Afl. 0.8 million (+0.1 percent). The aforementioned increases were partly offset by a downturn in commercial loans in the amount of Afl. 2.3 million or 0.2 percent.

In September 2013, the consumer price index (CPI) registered a 1.5 percent decline, compared to the same month of 2012. Contributory factors were housing, clothing & footwear, and transport. Excluding the effect of food and energy (which partly impacts the housing and transport components), the core CPI rose by 0.3 percent, compared to September 2012. The 12-month average inflation rate remained negative at -2.9 percent in September 2013.

In September 2013, the number of stay-over visitors reached 72,631, which is 4.4 percent (+3,093 visitors)

higher than in September 2012. This growth was caused mainly by a rise in visitors from Latin America of 4,691 (+20.5 percent), which was partly offset by a decline in visitors from Europe of 1,374 (-17.9 percent). In addition, the North American market recorded a slight increase, related to a rise in visitors from Canada of 140 (+6.0 percent), which more than compensated for the marginal decline of 67 visitors from the United States of America. The growth in the Latin American market was predominantly the result of higher arrivals from Venezuela (+3,909 visitors or +23.9 percent), while the shrinkage in the European market was due to a setback in the number of visitors from the United Kingdom (-1,071 visitors or -44.6 percent). The number of cruise visitors went up by 14,271 visitors (+220.2 percent) in September 2013, compared to the same month of the previous year. The number of ship calls increased from 3 in September 2012 to 11 in September 2013.

Cross-border lending falls in Q2 of 2013

ZURICH (AFP) - Cross-border lending contracted in the second quarter of 2013, reined in by the US Federal Reserve's talk of tightening its monetary policy, the Bank for International Settlements said yesterday. The Swiss-based BIS said in its quarterly statistics that such loans fell by \$515 billion (377 billion euros) across the quarter, 1.8 percent down on the previous three months.

As a result, cross-border loans stood at a total of \$23.3 trillion at the end of June, down 1.2 percent from a year earlier.

The BIS, which is often dubbed the central bankers' central bank, said the loan slowdown went hand in hand with market volatility after the Federal Reserve signalled in May it could tighten monetary policy if the US unemployment rate fell.

Loans to emerging markets slowed markedly, growing by just 0.7 percent over April to June. The first quarter had seen loans to emerging markets hit a record level, growing by 8.4 percent to reach \$267 billion, with the BIS underlining that this was just the latest step in a long-term trend.

Brazil, China and Russia accounted for 85 percent of the growth.

Most affected by the second-quarter slowdown in emerging markets were Latin America and the Caribbean --



with loans to Brazil contracting by 6.2 percent.

Across other emerging market regions, cross-border loans remained largely stable, though there were marked difference between countries.

In Asia, notably, loans to India and South Korea both fell by 3.3 percent, but rose by 8.1 percent in China. Powerhouse China received 21 percent of the globe's cross-border loans, up from 8.0 percent in 2007.

The BIS noted that the pace of growth in loans to China had nonetheless slowed.

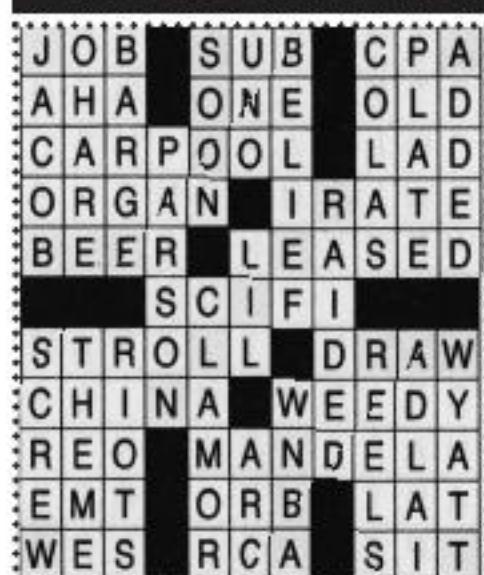
In developed economies, the fall in credit mainly affected the non-banking sector, in the wake of a major expansion in the previous three quarters.

But banks were not untouched, with loans to British banks falling by 5.9 percent and those to their eurozone counterparts by 3.4 percent. US banks were the exception that proved the rule, however, seeing loans rise by 11.0 percent.



RAFAH : Palestinian laborers prepare carnations at a flower farm in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip on December 7, 2013. Sealed off from the outside world, Gaza's farmers are entering their sixth year of export restrictions, imposed by Israel after the Islamist Hamas party took control of the impoverished Palestinian coastal territory. (AFP PHOTO)

SATURDAY'S Crossword Answer



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Aruba 12-13



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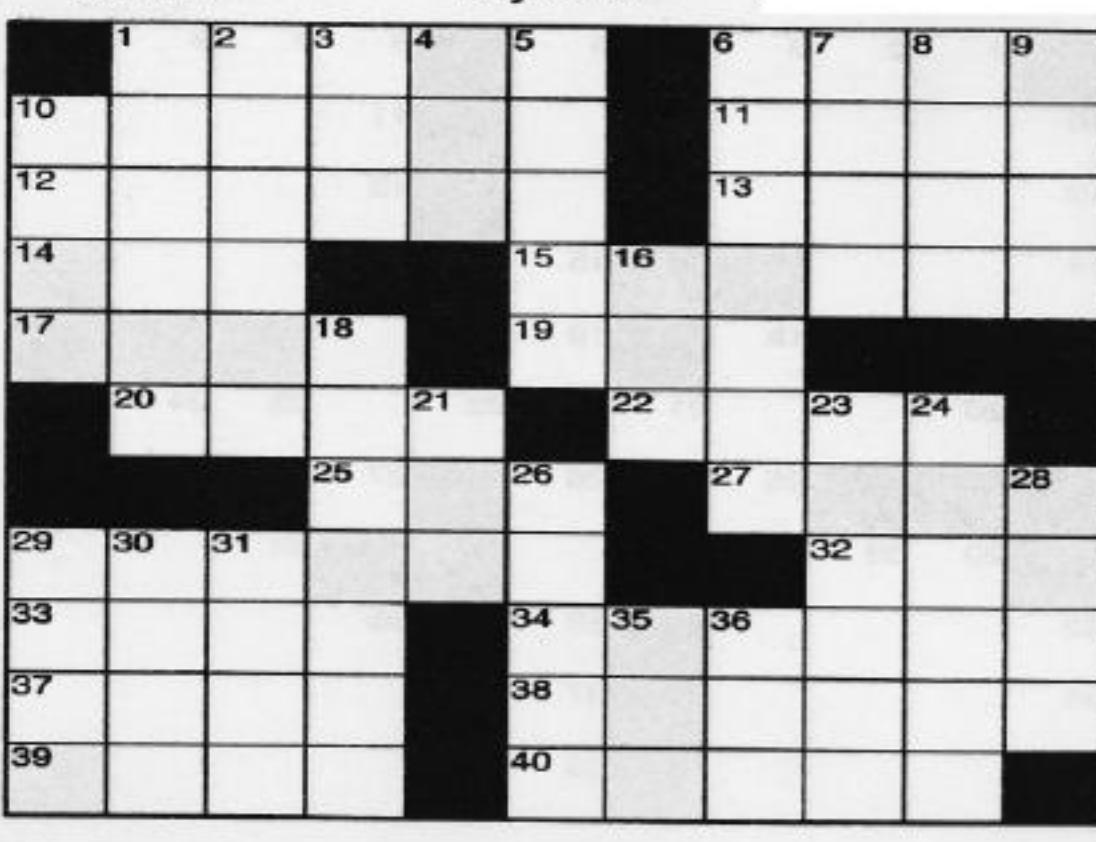
1 Satellites
6 Expression
10 Daryl of "Splash"
11 Nabisco cookie brand
12 Provoke
13 Wine valley
14 Seventh Greek letter
15 Instruction
17 Hobble
19 Natl. security org.
20 Specifi- cation (abbr.)
22 Apartment house, e.g. (abbr.)
25 Grazing place
27 Emulate Gidget
29 Sulky
32 "— Clown" (2 wds.)
33 Andy Taylor's boy
34 Like traditional Muslim women
37 Feathery

38 Set ablaze
39 Industrious insects
40 Advances

DOWN
1 Praying — (large insect)
2 Freeway entrance (hyph.)
3 "Notes — Scandal" (2006 film, 2 wds.)
4 Scold constantly
5 Place for knick-

knacks
6 Adenoids' neighbors
7 Significant times
8 "— Man" (1984 film)
9 Pained sound
10 Sock part
16 — tide
18 Air-rifle ammunition
21 Mediocre mark
23 James Joyce's

birthplace
24 Says "howdy"
26 Smithy's block
28 Lose luster
29 Former slugger Sammy
30 Current with (2 wds.)
31 Elevate
35 Self
36 Buy a pig — poke (2 wds.)



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POLICE HDQS
Telephone 100

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582-5447
In San Nicolas
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professional taxi services
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Sabana Liber 8 in Noord
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

6	8	4	2	1	9	7	5	3
9	7	2	8	5	3	1	6	4
1	5	3	4	6	7	8	2	9
2	4	1	6	8	5	3	9	7
8	3	9	7	4	2	6	1	5
7	6	5	3	9	1	4	8	2
4	2	8	9	7	6	5	3	1
5	9	6	1	3	4	2	7	8
3	1	7	5	2	8	9	4	6

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

Spend a fun evening with friends at Barney's

A few months ago, Palm Beach welcomed a cozy new place that offers good food, great prices and a uniquely warm, welcoming ambiance that makes patrons feel as if they are visiting with friends rather than just eating out. Even the name, "Barney's", which was inspired by Barney Rubble of the Flintstones, is an expression of the good humor of its owners and your hosts, Ron and Elina.

Ron and Elina have a very congenial division of labor; he enjoys being bartender and playing around with his "cocktail of the day" while she sees to it that everyone is well satisfied with their meal.

Chef Jan is in the kitchen doing his magic; patrons praise their spicy Firecracker Shrimp appetizer and mushrooms stuffed with escargot, priced at around \$10.00 or the Smoked Trout Fillet for a real gourmet treat.

They are particularly popular for their "Build Your Own Barney Burger" using specially imported organic beef



A place where you feel like you are with friends

from Holland, guaranteed to have been raised without steroids or antibiotics, only for \$12.00 served with fries and coleslaw. Patrons are handed a special hamburger checklist, which features a full menu of toppings, sauces and cheeses to customize your order to create the ideal burger. One can also opt for a second or third

hamburger patty for a very nominal cost.

High end items on the menu, such as the Seafood Pasta, are only \$22.50.

They also have a kid's menu with favorites such as a Kid's Burger, chicken fingers and Mac & Cheese; most items are only \$5. One regular described the place as particularly "kid-friendly," with

Elina, a mother herself, having devised a number of methods to keep young ones entertained.

The menu has a range to please patrons who are in the mood for something simple while others can be indulgent gourmands.

Tuesday through Saturday evenings they have specialty nights at bargain rates.

Tuesday is Schnitzel Night with a choice of five different kinds of schnitzel with sauces and toppings, only \$17.50. **Wednesday is fresh grouper**, prepared any of our five ways, with veggies and side dish, \$19.50.

Thursday enjoy unlimited ribs done three ways, honey-smoked, BBQ, or HOT for \$19.50, served with salad, coleslaw and fries.

Saturday means Endless Steak Night, also served with salad, coleslaw and fries for \$19.50.

Friday evening ends the work week with Karaoke Night, a convivial and fun evening when islanders kick back and let loose their inner rock star.

Barney's is located just on the Palm Beach/Noord road, not far from the gas station.

They are open from 5:00 to 11:00 PM and closed on Mondays. Check out their full menu at <http://www.barneysaruba.com> or call 586-5420 for reservations and directions.

Acqua Condominium Aruba announces that construction has been progressing at a brisk pace



The East Tower, overlooking Palm Beach, boasts 208 condos, spread over 14 floors. The two top building floors embrace 16 penthouse apartments with majestic views. The building is simply awaiting the windows and a few finishing touches, to conclude construction, very possibly by the end of this year. Following the completion of the elegant club house, the tropical landscaped pool and the spacious parking lots, the condos will be delivered to their proud new owners. Ground has been cleared for the North Tower, which

will follow as soon as the East Tower is completed.

A spokesperson for Acqua Condo Aruba reports that the project is receiving tremendous attention, particularly for the winter months. Snow-birds longing to reside in a vacation home on Aruba are now able to visualize this dream coming true, in a manner that leaves them utterly care free when not in residence.

Making the decision to purchase and acting on it quickly, was recently made even more imperative. In November of 2010, the island government of Aruba reiterated its commitment to a building moratorium for the next 10 years, making Acqua Condominium a truly unique investment opportunity, as it is the one and only high-rise condo project, on property land, in the island's most-desired location.

In view of the moratorium news, and the project's lucrative position, developers were compelled to discontinue the pre-construction discounts. Nevertheless, other purchase incentives have introduced. Special discount offers in effect at present are:



Pay 30% down payment and get 10% discount, 50% down payment, get 15% discount, pay in full for a 25% discount. Prices start at \$ 296,800 for a 2-bedroom/2 bathroom apartment. Paying cash will allow the buyer to obtain this very same unit for only \$ 222,600 - remarkable savings!

Other incentives: The opportunity to profit from your purchase is also available to buyers when they place their unit in a rental pool year.

If the image of Aqua Condominium tugs at your heart-strings, you are invited to visit the sales gallery and the two elegant model-suites available for viewing, fully finished with luxurious touches and high-end amenities.

The sales center is open Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. nonstop, and Saturday and Sunday, from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. You are invited to meet the sales team who will guide you through the purchase of the stylish condo of your dreams, allowing you to return to Aruba as often as you wish.

You will find the website very helpful.

Take a virtual tour and garner info regarding all legal documents, floor plans, furnishings and finishing at: www.acquaruba.com

Acqua Condominium Aruba, J.E. Irausquin Boulevard z/n. Palm Beach Aruba.

Boxing: Sturm regains world title after dethroning Barker

BERLIN (AFP) - Germany's Felix Sturm has become a world champion for the fourth time after winning back the IBF middleweight belt by dethroning England's Darren Barker with a second-round technical knock-out.

Having lost the belt in September 2012 to Australia's Daniel Geale, who subsequently lost on a split decision to Barker in August, the 34-year-old Sturm regained his crown by putting the Englishman down twice in the second round.

Barker beat the count twice, but with Sturm poised to finish him off, the Englishman's coach Tony Sims threw in the towel at 2:09 mins of the second round as Barker lost in the first defence of his world title.

"I dedicate this win to my family," said Sturm, who has 18 knock-outs from 39 wins in 45 professional bouts with three defeats and a drawn on his record.

Although a rematch was in the prematch fight contract, Barker's trainer Sims told reporters the Englishman had dislocated his hip during the fight and had gone to hospital in Stuttgart on Saturday for an x-ray.

Barker underwent double hip replacement surgery in 2010 and pointed to his hip at the end of the fight, clearly troubled by the joint.

Sims said the injury would almost certainly prevent a re-



Darren Barker (left) and Felix Sturm (right)

match taking place in London next year, and admitted he was uncertain as to whether his fighter would box again.

This was only the second

defeat of Barker's career having also lost to WBC middleweight champion Sergio Gabriel Martinez of Argentina in October 2011.

Golf: Jimenez wins record-equalling fourth Hong Kong Open

HONG KONG (AFP)

- Defending champion Miguel Angel Jimenez won the \$1.3 million Hong Kong Open in a three-way playoff Sunday, clinching the title for a record-equalling fourth time and securing his 20th European Tour victory.

The 49-year-old Spaniard birdied the first extra hole at the Hong Kong Golf Club to defeat Thailand's Prom Mee-sawat and Stuart Manley of Wales and collect a winner's cheque of \$216,660.

Jimenez raised his arm to the air as a fifteen-foot-plus putt dropped into the hole on the eighteenth green -- much to the delight of an adoring crowd in the southern Chinese city.

The victory saw the popular Jimenez match the Taiwanese Hsieh Yung-yo's four wins at Fanling in the 1960s and 1970s and break the record he set last year as the oldest European Tour winner.

Jimenez played the extra hole perfectly, hitting his tee shot past his opponents and into a prime position far down the fairway.

Jimenez started the day two shots behind overnight leader Manley but soon closed the gap with birdies at 3, 11, 13 and 14 as the Welshmen traded bogeys with birdies in an inconsistent round.

As the Spaniard ticked along nicely Prom -- playing in the



group ahead of Jimenez -- was tearing up the course to propel himself up the leaderboard.

Jimenez, who will turn 50 next month, won the Hong Kong Open in 2004, 2007 and 2012 when at 48 years and 318 days he became the oldest winner on the European Tour.

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Casillas unhappy with World Cup draw format

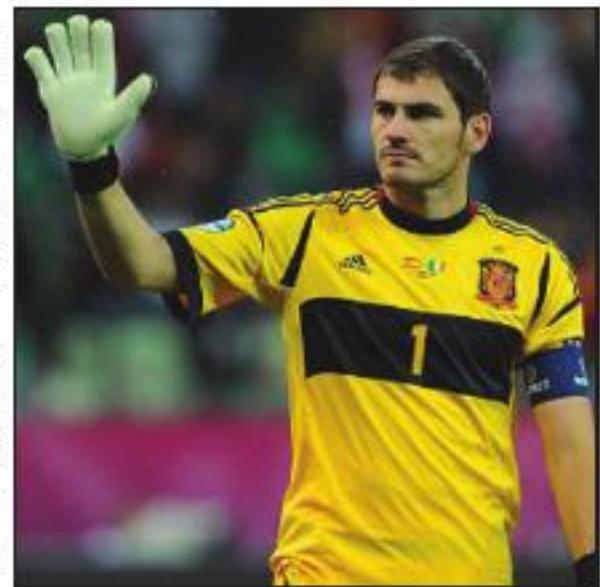
MADRID (AFP) - Spain captain Iker Casillas has said he doesn't believe the world champions should have been paired with Holland in their group for next year's World Cup in Brazil.

The world champions will play the Dutch in their first game on June 13 in a repeat of the 2010 final which Spain won 1-0.

A highly regarded Chile side and Australia make up Group B and the draw is even more complicated for Spain and Holland as whoever finishes second in the group will most likely face tournament favourites Brazil in the last 16.

Casillas is though wary that knocking the reigning world and European champions off their perch could act as an extra incentive for Spain's opponents.

Casillas' Real Madrid teammate Cristiano Ronaldo also faces a tough task just to get through the group stage as his Portugal side were drawn against Germany, the United



States and Ghana.

Ronaldo almost single-handedly ensured his country's participation next summer with a stunning individual display as he scored all four goals in their 4-2 aggregate playoff win over Sweden last month.

And having won the Champions League and league titles in England and Spain, the 28-year-old is desperate to enhance his legacy with victory in a major tournament.

The toughest task of the opening round of fixtures in Brazil though has arguably been handed to Croatia who will open the tournament against the hosts in Sao Paulo.

NBA: Korver sets three-point record



ATLANTA (AFP) - Atlanta's Kyle Korver set an NBA record by draining a three pointer in his 90th consecutive game as the Hawks beat Cleveland 108-89 on Friday.

Korver's three pointer in the first quarter broke the mark of 89 games in a row which was set by Dana Barros in 1996. Korver, who is an 11-year veteran, missed his first three-point attempt Friday before nailing the record-breaker. "It feels good," he said. He entered the game having made 46.7 percent of his three-point attempts during his amazing run. Al Horford finished with 22 points and nine rebounds for Atlanta, who have won two straight. Paul Millsap added 16 points and 14 rebounds while Jeff Teague and Lou Williams finished with 13 points apiece for the Hawks. Atlanta shot 51.6 from the field. Dion Waiters scored a season-high 30 points. Former Los Angeles Laker Andrew Bynum added 20 points and 13 rebounds for Cleveland, who have lost six of their last eight.

Cleveland star Kyrie Irving was held scoreless after going zero-for-nine from the field and zero-for-three from the free-throw line. It marked the first time in his career that Irving has been held without a point.

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World Cup 2014 fixtures guide

COSTA DO SAUIPE (AFP) - Programme of fixtures (last 16 on) for the 2014 World Cup in Brazil, which runs from June 12 until July 13 (local time and GMT):

(for the whole fixtures guide see *The Morningnews* last Saturday edition page 16)

ROUND OF 16

Saturday, June 28

Match 49, at Belo Horizonte (13h00-16h00), 1st Group A v 2nd Group B

Match 50, at Rio de Janeiro (17h00-20h00), 1st Group C v 2nd Group D

Sunday, June 29

Match 51, at Fortaleza (13h00-16h00), 1st Group B v 2nd Group A

Match 52, at Recife (17h00-20h00), 1st Group D v 2nd Group C

Monday, June 30

Match 53, at Brasilia (13h00-16h00), 1st Group E v 2nd Group F

Match 54, at Porto Alegre (17h00-20h00), 1st Group G v 2nd Group H

Tuesday, July 1

Match 55, at Sao Paulo (13h00-16h00), 1st Group F v 2nd Group E

Match 56, at Salvador (17h00-20h00), 1st Group H v 2nd Group G

QUARTER-FINALS

Friday, July 4

Match 57, at Fortaleza (17h00-20h00), winner Match 49 v winner Match 50

Match 58, at Rio de Janeiro (13h00-16h00), winner Match 53 v winner Match 54

Saturday, July 5

Match 59, at Salvador (17h00-20h00), winner Match 51 v winner Match 52

Match 60, at Brasilia (13h00-16h00), winner Match 55 v winner Match 56

SEMI-FINALS

Tuesday, July 8

Match 61, at Belo Horizonte (17h00-20h00), winner Match 57 v winner Match 58

Wednesday, July 9

Match 62, at Sao Paulo (17h00-20h00), winner Match 59 v winner Match 60

PLAY-OFF FOR THIRD PLACE

Saturday, July 12

Match 63, at Brasilia (17h00-20h00), loser Match 61 v loser Match 62

FINAL

Sunday, July 13

Match 64, at Rio de Janeiro (16h00-19h00), winner Match 61 v winner Match 62.

Team Aruba competed in NORCECA beach volleyball



ORANJESTAD - Just recently two masculine athletes in the beach volleyball sport competed in the international beach volleyball of NORCECA in Costa Rica.

Beach volleyball has become a growing sport worldwide. In Aruba it has become a well-liked sport among our young people.

The players who participated were Mitchel Daniel and Eargenel De Cuba.

These athletes competed in the 2013 NORCECA Circuit and made a remarkable performance. Last week they both competed in the last Circuit for this year.

The Subsidy Commission of the Lotto pa Deporte Foundation is very pleased to have supported these athletes in their game. They are committed to continue investing in our youth and in overall local sports.

THE MORNING NEWS
Your source for local news in English

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World Cup winners to net \$35m



COSTA DO SAUIPE (AFP) - As the 32 teams qualified for next year's World Cup are preparing for the 2014 World Cup, FIFA said the champions of the 2014 tournament will claim \$35m. FIFA secretary general Jerome Valcke also indicated that the runners-up would take home \$25m. Total money available for participating nations and clubs, who receive a total of \$100m for making their players available, will be \$576m, up from \$420m at South Africa in 2010. Valcke said in unveiling a decision by FIFA's finance committee. Spain won \$31m for lifting the trophy in 2010. The team finishing third will take home \$22m with \$20m on offer for fourth place while there will be a guaranteed minimum of \$8m for a group stage knockout. FIFA added it was launching a social fund to be administered by the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) to finance educational projects in a similar scheme to one it launched in South Africa. Valcke and FIFA president Sepp Blatter indicated the legacy fund would ultimately top \$100m.

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Aruba ready to attend Chess match in Costa Rica!



ORANJESTAD - The Aruba Chess Federation, with the financial support of the Subsidy Commission of the Lotto pa Deporte Foundation, is sending a youth selection to participate in the Central American Festival of the Caribbean to Costa Rica.

The games will take place from December 10th to the 16th.

The Central American and Caribbean Championship (CAC) takes place every year and is divided in a U-20 Championship and a Festival U-8 to U-18. Both tournaments take place on different dates and in two different countries.

This year CM Jasel "Osh"

Lopez and WCM Annelaine Jacobs participated in the Central American and Caribbean Championship U-20 in El Salvador in August. They both travelled with a "travel grant" from FIDE (Federation Internationale des Echecs). They both demonstrated their special talent in this field of sport. Osh ended up in 7th place in the Open Section and WCM Annelaine ended in 9th place in the female section.

Aruba has participated in CAC U-20 in the past (2005, 2011, 2012 and 2013) but never before in the Festival CAC where they play in age categories.

The players to represent Aruba in the Open Section U-

12 are Brian Diaz, current champion of CARIFTA U-12 Open Section who will also receive a "travel grant" from FIDE. In U-16 Open Section Mark Bueno, current UMADA 2013 Cup champion Challenger Section. In the Female Sections Maria Paula de Mey will go to play in U-16, while WCM Annelaine Jacobs will play in U-18. Head of the delegation is trainer Raymond Dijkhoff who will accompany the players.

The Aruba Chess Federation is very pleased for the opportunity to participate in the CAC 2013 Festival as this is the first time for youth chess players of Aruba to participate in the 3 biggest regional tournaments of CARIFTA, the Pan American Championship and the CAC. While many don't know, after FIFA (football) the FIDE federation is the sport federation with the most members worldwide. Currently 605 million people in the world play chess. Some 285 million play on the internet and 7.5 million are members of FIDE. These figures show that chess is the most popular of any other Olympic sport. A special



commission of FIDE is currently working on a "Chess in the Olympics Campaign."

The Aruba Chess Federation wishes our youth selection much success in Costa Rica. At the same time they are very

pleased with the support they received from the Subsidy Commission of the Lotto pa Deporte Foundation throughout the past year.

All the best Team Aruba!

